

To Chairman Hamburg and Mendocino County Supervisors,

I am a member of Albion Bridge Stewards which is a working group of the Albion Community Advisory Board. I am also a resident of Albion since 1983, a property owner, and a registered voter.

Please keep the hearing, the decision, and the follow-up enforcement of the Caltrans cleanup of the sandblast waste around Salmon Creek Bridge local, and do not give away your LCP jurisdiction.

Every one wants Caltrans to clean up its decades-old lead waste around that bridge, but Caltrans also needs to follow the Coastal Act, and not do an end run with this so-called permit consolidation.

Caltrans has a history of trying to avoid the Coastal Act and the LCP in Albion, which is why you need to retain local control.

When you yielded your coastal permit jurisdiction for the Albion River Bridge geotechnical review, Caltrans cut trees in the blue heron rookery and graded the berm and dune, without getting a coastal permit from the Coastal Commission.

The Coastal Commission meeting where a waiver of the coastal permit for repairing that violation finally came up was 750 road miles and almost 14 hours round trip from Albion. That made it impossible for us to speak at that meeting.

Caltrans says it's now in a hurry to clean up the lead paint waste, but could be through the County CDP amendment review if it had filed an application for it in January or February.

The next three Coastal Commission meetings are in San Diego, on the out-of-the way Central Coast, and then in Los Angeles or Orange County. The distances and drive times to these locations will again create a major obstacle to the public's participation at the Coastal Commission.

Some say, why don't you just send an email or a letter? But the Coastal Commissioners frequently don't even receive these public communications until a few days before the meeting, and more than half of them won't communicate directly at all.

Dear Supervisors, it's the County's coastal permit jurisdiction that is at stake here, and the ability of the public to participate in the process. Don't give them up. Haste makes waste.

Sincerely yours,

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